



# LegalEase

January 2024

*Newsletter of the Peoria County Bar Association, an Accredited Provider of Continuing Legal Education.*

## **President's Message**

Happy New Year! I wish all of our bar a peaceful and prosperous 2024. As we see what this year brings, I'm looking forward to our 115 Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet on February 22, 2024. I hope to see you there!

**Court News** By Chief Judge Katherine S. Gorman



1. Thank you to Judge Asbury, Washington, and Wilson for your time in Peoria County court last year. A complete list of the 2024 judicial assignments in the 10th Circuit can be found <https://www.10thcircuitcourtil.org/444/2024-Courtroom-Assignments-Contact-Info>

2. Here's wishing all officers, members, and the bar association in the State of Illinois a healthy, happy and civil new year.



## **Calendar of Events & Court Holidays**

### **January**

- 1 New Year's Day – Courts and Courthouse Closed/ PCBA Office Closed
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Courts and Courthouse Closed/ PCBA Office Closed
- 20 Estate Planning & Probate Seminar – Zoom – 8:30 a.m. – Noon
- 26 Civil Practice Seminar – Spalding Pastoral Center – 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **Distinguished Community Service Award**

Nominations are open for the **2024 Distinguished Community Service Award**. This award will be presented to the recipient at the 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet on February 22, 2024.

The PCBA Distinguished Community Service Award was established in 1995 when the following resolution was unanimously passed by the Board of Directors of the Association:

WHEREAS, members of the Peoria County Bar Association have a long history of community activism in volunteer projects to improve the quality of life in the Peoria area;

WHEREAS, the Peoria County Bar Association continues to encourage community involvement by its members;

WHEREAS, those individuals among our membership who have exhibited long commitment to community service as a volunteer deserve to be recognized and honored;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Peoria County Bar Association hereby establish the DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD recognizing each year one of our members whose record of longtime community volunteerism is exemplary and brings honor to both the Peoria area and this Association.

**Nominations must be submitted no later than January 5, 2024.** You can submit them online by clicking [here](#) (you must be logged in with your username & password to access the online form), or by downloading the forms by clicking [here](#) and submitting them to the PCBA office.

## **Committee Meetings**

**January - All meetings are at Noon. A "Z" means the committee is meeting through Zoom. An "O" means the PCBA Office**

- |    |                      |    |                    |    |                   |
|----|----------------------|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 8  | Pro Bono (Z)         | 16 | Board (Z & O)      | 24 | CLE (Z)           |
| 9  | Real Property (Z)    | 16 | Foundation (Z & O) | 25 | Workers' Comp (Z) |
| 10 | Public Relations (Z) | 17 | GPIL (Z)           |    |                   |
| 11 | YLC (O)              | 23 | Diversity (Z)      |    |                   |

## **Committee Reports**

### **Communications & Technology**

Work on the 2024 Attorneys' Directory has begun. Please send your changes to Stephanie at [pcbaasst@mtco.com](mailto:pcbaasst@mtco.com).

## **Continuing Legal Education Committee**

### **2024 Winter Series**

**SATURDAY, January 20 – Estate Planning & Probate – 8:30 a.m. - Noon (Zoom) \*3 hours of general MCLE credit. -**

**\$65 for PCBA Members**

Uncontested Guardianships by Mary Corrigan

Corporate Transparency Act by Kenny Eathington

Charitable Giving in Estate Planning by Kyle Tompkins

Real Estate Issues in Estate Administration – Practical Guide and Tips by Jim Kane

Case Law and Legislative Update by Marci Shoff & Jim Crowley

Tax Law Update by David Wiest

[Estate Planning & Probate Registration Link](#)

**FRIDAY, January 26 – Civil Practice – 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. (in-person) \*Snacks provided\* 3 hours of general MCLE credit. - \$75 for PCBA Members**

Service by Social Media and 103 B Issues by Jennifer Anschuetz

Case Law Update by Devin Taseff and Joseph Sell

What Trial Lawyers Can Learn About Opening Statements from the Genius of Taylor Swift by Jeff Green

Medicare Set-Aside Process in Liability Cases by Craig Pawley, Medivest

View from the Bench – Judges from the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

[Civil Practice Registration Link](#)

**SATURDAY, February 3 – Family Law – 8:30 a.m. – Noon (in-person) \*Continental Breakfast Included\***

**3 hours of general MCLE credit - \$75 for PCBA Members**

Legislative Update by Richard Zuckerman

Case Law Update by Angela Evans

Tools and Best Practices to Resolve Cases by Tami Meister, Kelly Giraudo, Ed Murphy and Alec Murphy

Business Valuation Issues we've seen from prior cases and The Importance of Real Estate Appraisals in Divorce by Bruce Richman

View from the Bench – Judges from the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

[Family Law Registration Link](#)

**FRIDAY, February 9 – Government & Public Interest Law and Employment Law – 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. (Zoom) \*3 hours of general MCLE credit. - \$65 for PCBA Members**

Fair Housing and the Changes to the Illinois Human Rights Act by Thomas Dennis, Kayte Bernardoni, and Maya Ziv-El of Prairie State Legal Services

Employment Law Update by Michael Gifford

Local Government Tort Immunity Act by Phil O'Donnell

[Government & Public Interest and Employment Law Registration Link](#)

**Early Registration price:** Zoom Seminars: \$65 for PCBA Members|\$80 for McLean County Bar Members|\$95 for Non-Members

In-Person Seminars: \$75 for PCBA Members|\$90 for McLean County Bar Members|\$105 for Non-Members

Registration can be done online at [www.peoriabar.org](http://www.peoriabar.org) and clicking on the event calendar. \*\*Registrations increase by \$15 the Monday before each seminar\*\*

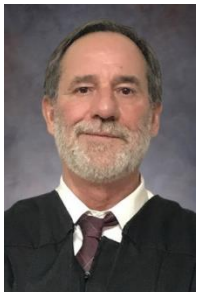
### **Fitness, Health & Wellness Committee** by: Robert Everett, Committee member

Looking to burn off some of those Christmas calories, we have some tips for you! 1. Drink plenty of water 2. Stay away from processed foods 3. Include vegetables and fruit in your diet 4. Get plenty of sleep 5. Get up and move around. As the temperature drops it can be difficult to convince yourself to stay active outside. Walking outside is great way to stay active in cold weather months. Dressing in layers with a thin layer of synthetic material near your body to wick away sweat will keep your cold weather walks comfortable, and don't forget to cover your head, hands, feet, and ears.

### **Lincoln Memorial Banquet**

The 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Memorial Banquet will be Thursday, February 22 at the Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino. Our speaker will be Dr. Samuel Wheeler, Director of History Programs at the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission. Registration will open the first week of January.

### **Memorials**



On November 22, 2023, a member of the association, Judge Bruce P. Fehrenbacher, passed away. Judge Fehrenbacher attended Illinois State University where he graduated with his Bachelor's degree in 1977. He then attended American University Washington College of Law where he received his law degree in 1980. Prior to becoming Judge in 2018, he opened his own practice, Fehrenbacher Law Office, in Wyoming, Illinois.

Contributions to the Peoria County Bar Association Foundation may be made online by clicking [here](#), or by sending a check to the Peoria County Bar Association Foundation in memory of Judge Bruce P. Fehrenbacher. The PCBA has made a \$100 contribution to the Foundation in his memory.

### **Membership**

We have received an application for membership from Rachelle Roth. Rachelle is the First Assistant Public Defender in the Peoria County Office. If there are no objections, her name will be presented to the Board in February for approval.

### **Prairie State Legal Services**

Please see the Pro Bono Service Waiting List on page 4.

### **Job Openings | Office Space Available | Misc.**

Job openings and office space available can be found on the homepage of our website or by clicking the following links: [Job Openings](#) and [Office Space](#) (office space section includes property for sale).

### **2023-24 Board of Directors**

Aliesha N. Graves – President  
Joshua D. Herman – President-Elect & Budget  
David B. Wiest – Second Vice President  
Katherine L. Swise – Secretary-Treasurer  
Michael A. Fleming – Past President & Nominating Chair  
Michele A. Miller – By-Laws  
Jon R. Giraudo – Communications & Technology  
Yolanda J. Riley -- Diversity  
Robert Boucher – Entertainment (Golf)  
Dennis E. Merkley – Entertainment (Holiday Party)  
JD VanRheeden – Fitness, Health & Wellness  
Masum D. Perkins – Government & Public Interest Law  
Robert J. Hanauer – Lawyer Referral Service

J. Scott Kriegsman – Lincoln Memorial Banquet  
Ann R. Pieper – Local Continuing Legal Education  
Alicia VanRheeden & David B. Mueller –  
Membership & Memorials  
Austin L. Nichols – Pro Bono  
Carol J. Perkins – Public Relations  
Kyle M. Tompkins – Real Property  
John G. Dundas – Substantive Law  
Allison Piper Geber – Young Lawyers  
J. Kevin Wolfe – Director at Large  
Bradley S. Barber – Director at Large  
Kerianne Waters – Director at Large  
Youssef Boudjarane – Director at Large



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Follow our social media for helpful legal information and event news:

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**EMAIL** [servicepeoria@pslegal.org](mailto:servicepeoria@pslegal.org)  
[pslegal.org](http://pslegal.org)



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## Pro Bono Service Waiting List

The following clients are prepared for pro bono attorney case assignment.

**Will/POAs for Seniors    4 Clients**

**Divorce                      3 Clients**

**Guardianship              2 Clients**

**Adoption                    1 Client**

**Bankruptcy/Consumer    2 Clients**

**To volunteer for these opportunities please contact**

**[lbell@pslegal.org](mailto:lbell@pslegal.org) 309-533-7663**

**Laurie Bell, Prairie State Legal Services, Pro Bono Coordinator**